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EXAMINER

HOYE, MICHAEL W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/733,332	Applicant(s) YAMADA ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael W. Hoyer	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicants' arguments, see pages 18-20 (more specifically page 20) of the Remarks section of the Amendment filed on June 20, 2005, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, 22-28 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Bar-El (WO 99/26415) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Bar-El (WO 99/26415) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Regarding amended independent claim 1, the Applicants argue on page 20 of the Remarks section that, "Bar-El fails to teach or suggest broadcasting television content data; performing a first signal processing on the television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium; and performing a second signal processing using the first out put content data and the television content data."

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicants because the Bar-El reference clearly teaches the claimed, "broadcasting television content data", as described on page 18, lines 3-5, where the network may be that of cable or satellite television and on pages 1-2 and page 17, line 15, the video services may include broadcasting of standard TV programs over the air, through cable systems or via satellite, which also may be digital TV video services as well as live streams over the Internet.

Regarding the claimed, "performing a first signal processing on the television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium; and performing a second

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signal processing using the first output content data and the television content data.” Bar-El discloses performing a second signal processing using the first output content data and the television content data of the result of the first signal processing on the television content data based on data recorded in advance as met by the video unit 14 and video personalization module 62, which reside on the client side of the network or user computer 12, or if the network is cable or satellite television, in a local “set-top” box (STB) (see Figs. 6 and 7, pg. 17, line 3 – pg. 18, line 5, also see pg. 14, line 8 – pg. 16, line 21 and Fig. 4 for a more detailed description of the processing that occurs in a video personalization module). Bar-El does not explicitly disclose performing a first signal processing on the television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art of television set-top boxes (STBs) and computer systems which have television broadcast reception capabilities to have software stored in a removable recording medium, such as a disk (including a CD-ROM or DVD), a memory card or other removable recording medium for the advantage of providing increased flexibility and expandability, including the capability of making software changes or providing new or additional software upgrades. Therefore, it is submitted that it would have been clearly obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have performed a first signal processing on the television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium for the advantages given above.

The Applicants also argue that amended independent claims 10, 16, 19-20, 22 and 26 are closely parallel, and recite substantially similar limitations as recited above for amended independent claim 1, and should be allowable over Bar-El. In addition to, the Applicants argue

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that since claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-12, 14-15, 17-18, 23-28 and 30-33 are dependent from one of claims 1, 10, 16, 19-20, 22 and 26, the dependent claims listed above should also be allowable over Bar-El.

In response, the Examiner repeats the remarks made above for amended independent claim 1.

Finally, regarding dependent claims 5, 13 and 29, which were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bar-El in view of Sitrick (USPN 6,425,825), the Applicants repeat the relevant foregoing discussion regarding claims 1, 10 and 26.

In response, the Examiner repeats the remarks made above for amended independent claims 1, 10 and 26.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 23-25 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims are dependent on canceled claim 21 and appear to be dependent on amended claim 22. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: the last section of the claimed "first signal processing means..." does not make sense in light of amended claim 1, it appears that the last portion of this claim limitation should be --said operation signal to output first output content data-- or something similar to the language of the related limitation in claim 1. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 20 is objected to because of the following informalities: the last section of the claimed "second signal processing means..." does not make sense in light of amended claim 1, it

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appears that the last portion of this claim limitation should be --said auxiliary data to generate second output content data-- or something similar to the language of the related limitation in claim 1. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-28 and 30-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bar-El (WO 99/26415), cited by the Examiner.

As to claim 1, note the Bar-El reference which discloses a data transmission method. The claimed broadcasting first data containing television content data and auxiliary data provided for signal processing at a viewer end is met by the video sequence data, the video parameters data, and the personalized data, which are transmitted from the video server 11 to the user computer 12, or if the network is that of cable or satellite television, in a local "set-top" box (STB) (see Figs. 6 and 7 and pg. 17, line 3 – pg. 18, line 5), also the video services may include broadcasting of standard TV programs over the air, through cable systems or via satellite, which also may be digital TV video services as well as live streams over the Internet (see pgs. 1-2 and page 17, line 15). The claimed receiving said first data at said viewer end is met by the user computer 12 or STB receiving all of the data as described above (pg. 17, line 10 – pg. 18, line 5). The claimed performing an operation and outputting an operation signal based on said operation; performing

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a first signal processing on said television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium and said operation signal to output first output content data; performing a second signal processing using said first output content data and said television content data based on said auxiliary data to generate second output content data; and outputting the second output content data is met in-part by the video unit 14 and video personalization module 62, which reside on the client side of the network or user computer 12 or STB, as described above (see Figs. 6 and 7, pg. 17, line 3 – pg. 18, line 5, also see pg. 14, line 8 – pg. 16, line 21 and Fig. 4 for a more detailed description of the processing that occurs in a video personalization module). Bar-El does not explicitly disclose performing a first signal processing on the television content data according to software stored in a **removable recording medium**.

However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art of television set-top boxes (STBs) and computer systems which have television broadcast reception capabilities to have software stored in a removable recording medium, such as a disk (including a CD-ROM or DVD), a memory card or other removable recording medium for the advantage of providing increased flexibility and expandability, including the capability of making software changes or providing new or additional software upgrades. Therefore, it is submitted that it would have been clearly obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have performed a first signal processing on the television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium for the advantages given above.

As to claim 2, the claimed said first data contains said television content data and command data for controlling said second signal processing at the viewer end is met by the video sequence and video parameters (or television broadcast video stream), and the personalized data

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as described above in claim 1 (also see pg. 12, lines 3-15). The claimed said second signal processing is performed using first output content data is met by the video personalization module 62 receiving the content data from the processing performed at the video server 10, which includes the processing performed by the video controller 24 and object storage 22 (see Figs. 2, 4, 6 and 7) and the claimed said television content data based on said command data to generated third output content data at said viewer end is met by the processing performed by the mixer 44 (pg. 16, lines 8-10) that is located in the video personalization module 62 (pg. 17, lines 5-13), where the personalization module 62 provides output to a user television (pg. 18, lines 3-5 and Figs. 6 & 7).

As to claim 3, the claimed said first data further contains any data provided for generation of said third output content data at the viewer end is met by the data transmitted to the user computers 12/STB as described above. The claimed said second signal processing is performed using the first output content data and said any data contained in said first data based on a command contained in said first data to generate fourth output content data is met by the personalized data and video parameters which is used to generated the fourth output content data as described above as well.

As to claim 4, the claimed said viewer end combines said first output content data and said television content data to generate fifth output content data is met by the mixer 44 (pg. 16, lines 8-10) that is located in the video personalization module 62 (pg. 17, lines 5-13), where the personalization module 62 provides output to a user television (pg. 18, lines 3-5 and Figs. 6 & 7).

As to claim 6, the claimed said first data contains advertisement data as one or both of said television content data and auxiliary data and said viewer end combines said first output

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content data and said advertisement data to generate and output seventh output content data is met by the data that is transmitted to the user computer as described above may comprise advertisement data (see pg. 7, lines 4-10).

As to claim 7, the claimed said first data contains a plurality of said advertisement data and said viewer end selectively combines one or more of any of said plurality of advertisement data with said seventh output content data is met by the data provided to the mixer (see pg. 11, line 20 – pg. 12, line 15), where the mixer 44 (pg. 16, lines 8-10) is located in the video personalization module 62 (pg. 17, lines 5-13), and the personalization module 62 provides output to a user television (pg. 18, lines 3-5 and Figs. 6 & 7).

As to claim 8, the claimed transmitting second data from said viewer end to a transmitting end and generating second television content data for transmission based on said second data at the transmitting end is met by user input being transmitted to the video server 11 from the user computer 12 (see Figs. 6 and 7; pg. 7, lines 8-10 and 17-19; pg. 8, lines 19-24; pg. 9, lines 10-18).

As to claim 9, the claimed said first data contains command data for controlling said first signal processing at the viewer end, said first signal processing is controlled at said viewer end based on commands contained in said first data, and said second output content data is generated based on content data of a result of said controlled first signal processing is met by the user's input/viewer profile information that is sent to the video server as previously described above.

As to claim 10, note the Bar-El reference which discloses the claimed data transmission system having a transmitter for broadcasting first data and a plurality of viewer apparatuses for receiving the first data as met by the video server 11 and user computers 12 or STBs, as shown in

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Figs. 6 and 7 and as described above in claim 1, where the video server transmits or broadcasts video sequence data, video parameters data, and personalized data to the user computer 12 or STB (see pg. 17, line 3 – pg. 18, line 5) through the video controller 24 and object storage 22 (see Fig. 2 as related to Figs. 6 and 7). The claimed said transmitter broadcasts said first data containing television content data and auxiliary data provided for the processing in said viewer apparatuses is met by the video server 11 and user computers 12 or STBs as previously described above in claim 1. The claimed each viewer apparatus of said viewer apparatuses comprising a receiving means for receiving said first data is met by the video unit 14 and video personalization module 62 as shown in Figs. 6 and 7. The claimed operating means for a viewer to perform an operation and to output an operation signal based on the operation is met by a pointing device 16 or keyboard (see Figs. 1, 6 and 7, and pg. 9, lines 1-18). The claimed first signal processing means for performing a desired signal processing on said television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium and said operation signal to output first output content data is met in-part by the video personalization module 62 (as shown in Figs. 6 and 7), which further comprises the video personalization scheduler 42, the image adapter 40, the personalized data storage 38, and the mixer 44 (as shown in Fig. 4). Bar-El does not explicitly disclose performing a desired signal processing on said television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art of television set-top boxes (STBs) and computer systems which have television broadcast reception capabilities to have software stored in a removable recording medium, such as a disk (including a CD-ROM or DVD), a memory card or other removable recoding medium for the advantage of providing increased flexibility

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and expandability, including the capability of making software changes or providing new or additional software upgrades. Therefore, it is submitted that it would have been clearly obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have performed a first signal processing on the television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium for the advantages given above. The claimed second signal processing means for performing a predetermined processing on said first output content data and said television content data using said auxiliary data to generate second output content data is met by the video personalization module (see Figs. 1, 4, 6 and 7), and more specifically the mixer 44 located within the video personalization module (see Fig. 4 and pg. 14, line 8 – pg. 16, line 21). The claimed outputting means for outputting said second output content data is met by monitor 28 (see Figs. 1, 6 and 7).

As to claim 11, the claimed data transmission system as set forth in claim 10, wherein said first data contains said television content data and command data for controlling said second signal processing means of said viewer apparatus is met by the video sequence and video parameters (or video stream), and the personalized data as described above in claim 1 (also see pg. 12, lines 3-15). The claimed said second signal processing means of said viewer apparatus performs signal processing based on said first output command data on content data is met by the video personalization module 62 receiving the content data from the processing performed at the video server 10, which includes the processing performed by the video controller 24 and object storage 22 (see Figs. 2, 4, 6 and 7), and the claimed said television content data to generate said second output content data is met by the processing performed by the mixer 44 (pg. 16, lines 8-

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10) that is located in the video personalization module 62 (pg. 17, lines 5-13), where the personalization module 62 provides output to a user television (pg. 18, lines 3-5 and Figs. 6 & 7).

As to claim 12, the claimed said each viewer apparatus further includes a transmitting means for transmitting desired data to said transmitter and said transmitter prepares said television content data for broadcast based on said desired data is met by user input being transmitted to the video server 11 from the user computer 12 (see Figs. 6 and 7; pg. 7, lines 8-10 and 17-19; pg. 8, lines 19-24; pg. 9, lines 10-18).

As to claim 14, the claimed said first data contains advertisement data as one or both of said television content data and auxiliary data and said second signal processing means of said viewer apparatus combines first output content data and advertisement data to generate and output fourth output content data is met by the data that is transmitted to the user computer as described above may comprise advertisement data (see pg. 7, lines 4-10).

As to claim 15, the claimed said first data contains a plurality of advertisement data and said second signal processing means of said viewer apparatus selectively combines one or more of any of the plurality of advertisement data with fourth output content data is met by the data provided to the mixer (see pg. 11, line 20 – pg. 12, line 15), where the mixer 44 (pg. 16, lines 8-10) is located in the video personalization module 62 (pg. 17, lines 5-13), and the personalization module 62 provides output to a user television (pg. 18, lines 3-5 and Figs. 6 & 7).

As to claim 16, note the Bar-El reference which discloses the claimed data transmission system having a transmitter for broadcasting first data and a plurality of viewer apparatuses for receiving the first data as met by the video server 11 and user computers 12 or STBs, as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, and described above in claim 1, where the video server transmits video sequence

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data, video parameters data, and personalized data to the user computer 12 or STB (see pg. 17, line 3 – pg. 18, line 5) through the video controller 24 and object storage 22 (see Fig. 2 as related to Figs. 6 and 7). The claimed said transmitter broadcasts said first data containing television content data including video data and command data for controlling viewer apparatuses at a receiver end is met by the video server 11 and user computers 12 or STBs as described above. The claimed each viewer apparatus or said viewer apparatuses comprising a receiving means for receiving said first data is met by the video unit 14 and video personalization module 62 as shown in Figs. 6 and 7. The claimed signal processing means for performing desired signal processing on said television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium and operations of a viewer and outputting processed television content data including video data is met in part by the video personalization module 62 (as shown in Figs. 6 and 7), which further comprises the video personalization scheduler 42, the image adapter 40, the personalized data storage 38, and the mixer 44 (as shown in Fig. 4). Bar-El does not explicitly disclose performing desired signal processing on said television content data according to software stored in a **removable recording medium**. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art of television set-top boxes (STBs) and computer systems which have television broadcast reception capabilities to have software stored in a removable recording medium, such as a disk (including a CD-ROM or DVD), a memory card or other removable recording medium for the advantage of providing increased flexibility and expandability, including the capability of making software changes or providing new or additional software upgrades. Therefore, it is submitted that it would have been clearly obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have performed a first signal

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processing on the television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium for the advantages given above. The claimed signal combining means for combining the video data of said television content data with a predetermined region of the video data of the processed television content data to generate output content data containing new video data is met by the mixer 44 (see Fig. 4 and pg. 14, line 8 – pg. 16, line 21). The claimed outputting means for outputting said generated output content data is met by monitor 28 (see Figs. 1, 6 and 7).

As to claim 17, the claimed said television content data contained in said first data is data relating to an advertisement and said signal combining means of said viewer apparatus combines video data relating to said advertisement with a predetermined region of video data of said processed television content data to generate said output content data containing new video data is met by the data that is transmitted to the user computer/STB, as described above, may comprise advertisement data (see pg. 7, lines 4-10).

As to claim 18, the claimed said first data contains a plurality of advertisement data and said signal combining means of said each viewer apparatus selectively combines one or more of any of said plurality of advertisement data with said output content data is met by the data provided to the mixer (see pg. 11, line 20 – pg. 12, line 15), where the mixer 44 (pg. 16, lines 8-10) is located in the video personalization module 62 (pg. 17, lines 5-13), and the personalization module 62 provides output to a user television (pg. 18, lines 3-5 and Figs. 6 & 7).

As to claim 19, note the Bar-El reference which discloses the claimed information processing method comprising generating, at a transmitting end, television content data, and broadcasting first data containing the television content data and auxiliary data provided for

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signal processing at a viewer end as met by the video sequence data, the video parameters data, and the personalized data, which are transmitted from the video server 11 to the user computer 12 or STB as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, and as described above in claim 1 (see pg. 17, line 3 – pg. 18, line 5). The claimed receiving, at the viewer end, said first data is met by the user computer 12 or STB receiving all of the data as described above (pg. 17, line 10 – pg. 18, line 5). The claimed performing a desired first signal processing performed on said television content data based on data stored in a removable recording medium at the viewer end to produce first output content data is met in part by the video personalization module 62 (as shown in Figs. 6 and 7), which further comprises the video personalization scheduler 42, the image adapter 40, the personalized data storage 38, and the mixer 44 (as shown in Fig. 4). Bar-El does not explicitly disclose performing a desired first signal processing performed on said television content data based on data stored in a **removable recording medium**. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art of television set-top boxes (STBs) and computer systems which have television broadcast reception capabilities to have software stored in a removable recording medium, such as a disk (including a CD-ROM or DVD), a memory card or other removable recording medium for the advantage of providing increased flexibility and expandability, including the capability of making software changes or providing new or additional software upgrades. Therefore, it is submitted that it would have been clearly obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have performed a first signal processing on the television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium for the advantages given above. The claimed processing said first output content data and said television content data using said auxiliary data to generate second output content data

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is met by the mixer 44 (see Fig. 4 and pg. 14, line 8 – pg. 16, line 21). The claimed outputting the second output content data is met by monitor 28 (see Figs. 1, 6 and 7). The claimed transmitting data of at least one of said first output content data and said second output content data from said viewer end to the transmitting end is met by user input being transmitted to the video server 11 from the user computer 12/STB (see Figs. 6 and 7; pg. 7, lines 8-10 and 17-19; pg. 8, lines 19-24; pg. 9, lines 10-18). The claimed performing, at said transmitting end, a desired information processing based on said first data to generate updated television content data for broadcast is met by the video server 11 gathering information regarding the responses of users to the various advertising images which the personalization system 10 implants and updating the user's profile in order to transmit images to the user based on their profile and selections (see pg. 9, line 10 – pg. 12, line 15).

As to claim 20, note the Bar-El reference which discloses the claimed information processing system having a transmitter for broadcasting first data and a plurality of viewer apparatuses for receiving the first data as met by the video server 11 and user computers 12 or STBS as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, and as previously described above in claim 1. The claimed said transmitter including a content data creating means for generating television content data is met by the video controller 24 and object storage 22 as shown in Fig. 2. The claimed first transmitting means for broadcasting said first data containing said television content data and auxiliary data provided for signal processing on a viewer end is met by the video sequence data, the video parameters data, and the personalized data, which are transmitted from the video server 11 to the user computer 12/STB as shown in Figs. 6 and 7 (see pg. 17, line 3 – pg. 18, line 5). The claimed information processing means for performing a desired information processing

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based on second data transmitted from said viewer apparatuses is met by the user identifier 20 and user database 21 and outputting a processing result (see Fig. 2 and pg. 10, line 3 – pg. 11, line 13). The claimed wherein said content data creating means generates said television content data to be broadcasted based on said processing result is met by the video controller 24 and object storage 22 as described above (see pg. 10, line 14 – pg. 12, line 9 for further details). The claimed each viewer apparatus of said plurality of viewer apparatuses including a receiving means for receiving said first data is met by the user computer 12/STB receiving all of the data as described above (pg. 17, line 10 – pg. 18, line 5). The claimed first signal processing means for performing a desired first signal processing on said television content data based on data stored in a removable recording medium and outputting first output content data is met in part by the video personalization module 62 (as shown in Figs. 6 and 7), which further comprises the video personalization scheduler 42, the image adapter 40, the personalized data storage 38, and the mixer 44 (as shown in Fig. 4). Bar-El does not explicitly disclose performing a desired first signal processing on said television content data based on data stored in a removable recording medium. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art of television set-top boxes (STBs) and computer systems which have television broadcast reception capabilities to have data stored in a removable recording medium, such as a disk (including a CD-ROM or DVD), a memory card or other removable recoding medium for the advantage of providing increased flexibility and expandability, including the capability of making software changes or providing new or additional software upgrades. Therefore, it is submitted that it would have been clearly obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have performed a first signal processing on the television content data based on

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data stored in a removable recording medium for the advantages given above. The claimed second signal processing means for processing the first output content data and said television content data using said auxiliary data to generate second output content data is met by the mixer 44 (see Fig. 4 and pg. 14, line 8 – pg. 16, line 21). The claimed outputting means for outputting said second output content data is met by monitor 28 (see Figs. 1, 6 and 7). The claimed second transmitting means for transmitting at least one of said first output content data and said second output content data is met by user input being transmitted to the video server 11 from the user computer 12 (see Figs. 6 and 7; pg. 7, lines 8-10 and 17-19; pg. 8, lines 19-24; pg. 9, lines 10-18).

As to claim 22, note the Bar-El reference which discloses the claimed data transmitter including a data generating means for generating first data containing television content data and auxiliary data provided for a predetermined signal processing in a viewer apparatus as met by the video controller 24 and object storage 22 as shown in Fig. 2, where video sequence data, video parameters data, and personalized data are transmitted from the video server 11 to the user computer 12 or STB as shown in Figs. 6 and 7 and as described above in claim 1 (see pg. 17, line 3 – pg. 18, line 5). The claimed broadcasting means for broadcasting the first data to a plurality of viewer apparatuses is met by the video server 11 and user computers 12/STBs as shown in Figs. 6 and 7. The claimed viewer apparatus is a predetermined apparatus which performs a desired first signal processing on said television content data in accordance with software stored in a removable recording medium and outputs first output content data is met in part by the video personalization module 62 (as shown in Figs. 6 and 7), which further comprises the video personalization scheduler 42, the image adapter 40, the personalized data storage 38, and the

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mixer 44 (as shown in Fig. 4) and the viewer apparatus is predetermined through a unique identification used by the server (see pg. 10, line 3 – pg. 12, line 15). Bar-El does not explicitly disclose performing a desired first signal processing on said television content data in accordance with software stored in a **removable recording medium**. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art of television set-top boxes (STBs) and computer systems which have television broadcast reception capabilities to have software stored in a removable recording medium, such as a disk (including a CD-ROM or DVD), a memory card or other removable recording medium for the advantage of providing increased flexibility and expandability, including the capability of making software changes or providing new or additional software upgrades. Therefore, it is submitted that it would have been clearly obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have performed a first signal processing on the television content data in accordance with software stored in a removable recording medium for the advantages given above. The claimed said viewer apparatus performs a predetermined second signal processing on first output content data and television content data to produce second output content data is met by the mixer 44 (see Fig. 4 and pg. 14, line 8 – pg. 16, line 21). The claimed outputs second output contents data is met by monitor 28 (see Figs. 1, 6 and 7). The claimed said data generating means generates said first data containing command data for controlling one or both of the first signal processing and second signal processing using said auxiliary data is met by the video personalization module 62 receiving the content data from the processing performed at the video server 10, which includes the processing performed by the video controller 24 and object storage 22 (see Figs. 2, 4, 6 and 7).

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As to claim 23, the claimed data transmitter...further comprising a receiving means for receiving second data transmitted from said plurality of viewer apparatuses is met by user identifier 20 in video server 10 as shown in Fig. 2. The claimed computer means for collecting said second data transmitted from said plurality of viewer apparatuses and performing a desired computation to generate a result, wherein said data generating means generates said first data based on said second data or said result of said desired computation is met by the user identifier 20 and user database 21 working in conjunction with object storage 22, video controller 24 and video analyzer 25 as shown in Fig. 2 (see pg. 10, line 3 – pg. 12, line 23).

As to claim 24, the claimed data transmitter...wherein said data generating means generates said first data containing program data containing video data and information for replacing a predetermined object in said video data with another object is met by the video controller 24 and object storage 22 as shown in Fig. 2 (pg. 11, line 6 – pg. 12, line 15).

As to claim 25, the claimed data transmitter...wherein said data generating means has one or more advertisement data of a form for viewing combined with any video data as one or both of said television content data and auxiliary data is met by the objects as previously described above may comprise an advertisement or multiple advertisements (pg. 7, lines 2-10 and pg. 8, lines 11-14).

As to claim 26, note the Bar-El reference which discloses the claimed signal processor for receiving first data containing television content data and predetermined auxiliary data as met by the video personalization module as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, which receives the video sequence data, the video parameters data, and the personalized data, which are transmitted from the video server 11 to the user computer 12 or STB as shown in Figs. 6 and 7 and as described

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above in claim 1 (see pg. 17, line 3 – pg. 18, line 5). The claimed receiving means for receiving said first data is met by the user computer 12/STB receiving all of the data (pg. 17, line 10 – pg. 18, line 5). The claimed first signal processing means for performing a desired signal processing on said television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium and operations of a viewer and outputting first output content data containing video data is met in part by the video personalization module 62 (as shown in Figs. 6 and 7), which further comprises the video personalization scheduler 42, the image adapter 40, the personalized data storage 38, and the mixer 44 (as shown in Fig. 4). Bar-El does not explicitly disclose performing a desired signal processing on said television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium. However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art of television set-top boxes (STBs) and computer systems which have television broadcast reception capabilities to have software stored in a removable recording medium, such as a disk (including a CD-ROM or DVD), a memory card or other removable recording medium for the advantage of providing increased flexibility and expandability, including the capability of making software changes or providing new or additional software upgrades. Therefore, it is submitted that it would have been clearly obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have performed signal processing on the television content data according to software stored in a removable recording medium for the advantages given above. The claimed second signal processing means for processing said first output content data and said television content data by predetermined processing using said auxiliary data to generate second output content data is met by is met by the mixer 44 (see Fig. 4

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and pg. 14, line 8 – pg. 16, line 21). The claimed outputting means for outputting said second output content data is met by monitor 28 (see Figs. 1, 6 and 7).

As to claim 27, the claimed signal processor... wherein one or both of said first signal processing means and said second signal processing means controls processing based on command data contained in said auxiliary data of said first data is met by the user computers 12/STBs, as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, where the video server 11 transmits video sequence data, video parameters data, and personalized data to the user computer 12/STB (see pg. 17, line 3 – pg. 18, line 5) through the video controller 24 and object storage 22 (see Fig. 2 as related to Figs. 6 and 7).

As to claim 28, the claimed said second signal processing means combines video data of said first output content data with a predetermined region of video data of said television content data to generate third output content data containing new video data is met by the mixer 44 (see Fig. 4 and pg. 14, line 8 – pg. 16, line 21).

As to claim 30, the claimed said second signal processing means combines video data of said television content data with a predetermined region of video data of said first output content data to generate fifth output content data is met by the mixer 44 (see Fig. 4 and pg. 14, line 8 – pg. 16, line 21).

As to claim 31, the claimed said second signal processing means combines said fifth output content data and advertisement data contained in said first data to generate sixth output content data is met by the mixer as described above and the data that is transmitted to the user computer/STB as described above may comprise advertisement data (see pg. 7, lines 4-10).

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As to claim 32, the claimed said second signal processing means combines selectively one or more of any of a plurality of advertisement data contained in said first data with said sixth content data is met objects processed by the mixer as described above, which may comprise an advertisement or multiple advertisements (pg. 7, lines 2-10, pg. 8, lines 11-14 and pg. 11, line 6 – pg. 12, line 15).

As to claim 33, the claimed transmitting means for transmitting desired data to a source of transmission of said first data is met by the video unit 14 (Figs. 6 and 7), which may transmit data back to the video sever 11, for example, user input may be transmitted to the video server 11 from the user computer 12/STB (see pg. 7, lines 8-10 and 17-19; pg. 8, lines 19-24; pg. 9, lines 10-18).

5. Claims 5, 13 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bar-El in view of Sitrick (USPN 6,425,825), cited by the Examiner.

As to claim 5, the Bar-El reference discloses the claimed data transmission method as described in claim 4 above. However, the Bar-El reference does not explicitly disclose that the first output content data at the viewer end contains data of any game character and said viewer end replaces video data of a predetermined object contained in said first data with data of the game character of said first output content data to generated sixth output content data. The Sitrick reference teaches a system and methodology where replacement predefined character images and existing game display functions, including user visual images such as, a “newscaster”, a “cameo guest”, or a “synthetic actor” with predetermined actions, may be utilized in association with predefined game character and game display functions (col. 13, lines

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35-48). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of the Bar-El reference, which teaches a data transmission method for replacing objects such as advertisement images in the output received by a user, with the additional teachings of the Sitrick reference which teaches the features of replacing a predefined object with a game character for the advantage of allowing a user to interactively select various types of game characters for use in their game system. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to make such a modification for the advantages given above specifically for use with an interactive television/computer game system.

As to claim 13, the claim is rejected based on similar grounds as the rejection of claim 5 above.

As to claim 29, the claim is rejected based on similar grounds as the rejection of claim 5 above.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

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CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael W. Hoyer whose telephone number is **571-272-7346**.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller, can be reached at **571-272-7353**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Please address mail to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as follows:

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Effective January 14, 2005, except correspondence for Maintenance Fee payments, Deposit Account Replenishments (see 1.25(c)(4)), and Licensing and Review (see 37 CFR 5.1(c) and 5.2(c)), please address correspondence to be delivered by other delivery services (Federal Express (Fed Ex), UPS, DHL, Laser, Action, Purolator, etc.) as follows:

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to customer service whose telephone number is **571-272-2600**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866-217-9197** (toll-free).

Michael W. Hoyer
August 29, 2005



JOHN MILLER
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